



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/728,322

Filing Date: 12/04/2003

Applicant: Baker et al.

Entitled: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING  
RETURNABLE CONTAINERS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8 (A)**

*March 12, 2004*  
Date of Deposit:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Jody K. Prince*  
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Jody K. Prince

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97-1.98**

As authorized and encouraged under 37 CFR §§ 1.97-1.98 and the provisions of MPEP §§ 609 and 707.05 (b), Applicant(s) submits herewith certain patent references, publications and/or other information which the Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider in examining the above-identified patent application. The references and information are listed below and on attached form PTO-1449.

U.S. PATENTS

U.S. PATENT NUMBER	INVENTOR(S)
6,634,506	Beal et al.

PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

U.S. PUBLICATION NUMBER	INVENTOR(S)
2002/0161878 A1	Okamura et al.
2002/0069141 A1	Kawamura et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

COUNTRY	PATENT NO.	INVENTOR(S)
NONE		

OTHER DOCUMENTS

1. NONE.

A copy of each document is included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with ample opportunity to evaluate the same and arrive at an independent assessment of the materiality of each, if any, to the examination of the above-identified application.

In reviewing the enclosed copies of the above documents, the Examiner is instructed to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may have been done because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-

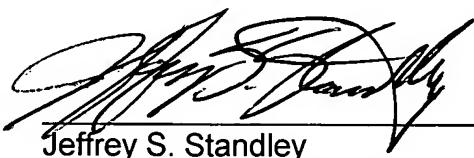
identified application. The copies being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement are the best copies available at this time.

The identification of any document herein is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being, an admission that each such document, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law.

Applicant(s) respectfully requests that the documents cited herein be made of record in the normal manner and that such documents appear on the printed patent as being considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/10/04

By: 

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**FORM PTO-1449 TO BE FILED WITH  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

U.S. Department of Commerce

Atty. Docket No. HON 1448-047 Serial No. 10/728,322

Patent and Trademark Office

INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
BY APPLICANTS

Baker, et al.

Applicant

12/04/2003

Filing Date

Group Art Unit

Examiner's name

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner's Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/Sub-class
	6,634,506	10/2003	Beal et al.	209/630

**U.S. PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATIONS**

Examiner's Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/Sub-class
	2002/0161878 A1	10/2002	Okamura et al.	709/223
	2002/0069141 A1	6/2002	Kawamura et al.	705/28

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial	Document Number	Date	Country/Name	Translation? yes/no
	NONE			

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## OTHER DOCUMENTS

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1. None.

Examiner	Date Considered
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Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

The identification of any document herein is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being, an admission that each such document, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law since, for example, a given document may have a later effective date than at first seems apparent or the document may have an effective date which can be antedated. The "prior art" status of any document is a matter to be resolved during prosecution.